

Hawaii MARINE

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May 16, 2003

Governor chats with Hawaii's military

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Press Chief

With open arms, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, welcomed Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle aboard the installation, Wednesday, for a briefing with the commanding general, a tour of the base, and the chance to speak to Hawaii Marines and Sailors.

In her first visit since taking office, Gov. Lingle took advantage of the opportunity to talk to service members at the flightline about the state's gratefulness for their actions in volunteering to protect the country and Hawaii, even in these trying

times.

"I want you to know that we do appreciate everything you've done for us," said the Republican governor during her remarks. "I want to thank you, personally, for being willing to risk your lives to protect our way of life."

Governor Lingle pointed out that MCB Hawaii is the largest civilian employer on the Windward side of Oahu, and that the base's presence can be felt not only economically from civilian jobs it creates, but also through the massive volunteer efforts put forth by the Marines, Sailors and their families.

During her visit, Governor

Lingle also set aside time to take questions from civilian media members who came to report the day's events. When asked about helping Hawaii's military gain access to better training, Lingle responded promptly and precisely.

"They risk their lives for us," she said. "We owe it to them to give them the best training areas possible, so they can be ready and well-trained



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Governor Linda Lingle took time during her visit to MCB Hawaii, to talk to Marines and Sailors at the scenic flightline, adjacent to Kaneohe Bay Wednesday.

when it comes time for them to act."

As the governor prepared to depart Kaneohe Bay, she re-

ceived a souvenir coin from Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii.

"This was a good opportunity to get out and meet with the military," Gov. Lingle said. "By having a good report with the military, we can help them with many issues, including training."

Governor Lingle wrapped up her visit by meeting with and personally thanking many Marines and Sailors.

Kaneohe Bay tackles wildfire on all fronts

Sgt. Jereme Edwards
Editor

KANEOHE — The Honolulu Fire Department received an emergency call for a wild, land fire on the H-3 highway, about a quarter-mile outside the main gate of MCB Hawaii at 10:22 p.m. Saturday. Due to the location and size of the blaze, MCB Hawaii was asked to lend a helping hand. Firefighters with Marine Corps Air Facility's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, as well as members of the MCB Hawaii Federal Fire Department, answered the call.

The Marines, city and federal firefighters devised a plan of attack and set forth to conquer the blaze.

The units set a perimeter and battled the fires and heat well into the early morning hours. Around 3 a.m., the blaze seemed to be extinguished, and the crews thought the inferno had been stamped out. To their surprise, the flames rekindled and the blaze started again.



Sgt. Jereme Edwards

Marines from Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting suppress a wildfire Sunday, with the aid of an aircraft fire truck.

Around 9:30 a.m., Sunday, the call went out again, and crews returned - determined not to let

this brush fire get the best of them.

With steadfast devotion to

duty, ARFF gathered its aircraft fire truck, its 5,000-gallon tanker and manned hoses, suited up,

then reset a perimeter along the H-3 to prevent the blaze from crossing the freeway, as city and federal firefighters set other perimeters.

Armed with a 150-gallon bucket, the city helicopter and firefighters battled the blaze into the afternoon. Two CH-53D "Sea Stallion" helicopters from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 joined the battle, both carrying 500-gallon buckets. Eventually, HMH-362 helped dump thousands of gallons of water onto the brush.

With a full perimeter and aerial assault, the blaze stood no chance against the combined efforts of all the firefighters.

"Our Marines did a great job with this wild, land fire," said Gunnery Sgt. Benjamin Fogarty, ARFF Crash chief. "We train primarily for aircraft emergencies and to assist the Federal Fire Department aboard MCB Hawaii with any structural assistance they may need. This was an oppor-

See FIRE, A-5

Base Fuels wins major award

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

Time and time again, the Marines, Sailors and civilians with Base Fuels aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, have prevented dangerous incidents involving fuel from occurring and causing millions of dollars in damages here. For their proven ability to safely transport and warehouse more than three million gallons of fuel, at any given time, Base Fuels received the American Petroleum Institute Award for the second time in two years. Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, recognized the unit's achievements at a base flagpole ceremony, May 9.

"We have to be constantly concerned about the safety of others



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Base Fuels was voted the best non-tactical Fuel Division for the second consecutive year.

and the environment around us," said Ed Campbell, Fuels director. "An accident of any proportion can be disastrous to the environment. We have to constantly be alert when dealing with fuel."

Although safety precautions are strictly followed and enforced, at all times, accidents can still occur at any given moment.

Fuel tanks are commonly transported using barges in the waters surrounding MCB Hawaii. One small mistake or error in judgment could result in thousands of gallons of fuel being introduced into the ocean, which could destroy all sealife present and endanger human lives in the area.

"We have to always remember, when we are dealing with the fuel, that if anything happens, we are jeopardizing missions, lives and the environment," said Campbell. "[That's why] we are constantly checking valves, pipelines and gauges, and we always work together. We never do anything regarding the transportation of fuels alone."

The American Petroleum Institute decided Base Fuels was best suited for the award after

See FUELS, A-4

MCBH workers honored with federal awards

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

WAIKIKI — Service members and employees from MCB Hawaii were recognized for their outstanding contributions, performance and overall character while performing their duties during the 2003 Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon held at Waikiki Sheraton Hotel, May 7.

With "Honoring the Past, Present, and Future: A Legacy in Public Service" as its theme, the luncheon and ceremony included opening re-

marks from Hawaii Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona. He said the individuals being honored were responsible for many outstanding achievements, and they could not be thanked enough for all the sacrifices they had made on a daily basis.

Attendees and award recipients also enjoyed a musical selection from former "American Idol" contestant Jordan Segundo, who sang "For Your Love," as they dined on a gourmet.

"It is great to recognize the men and women who have

See AWARDS, A-5

MCBH News Briefs

ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE TO BE CELEBRATED, SATURDAY

In honor of Asian Pacific Heritage Month, MCB Hawaii will host a craft fair at the Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Exchange, Saturday from 12 - 3 p.m. Plenty of activities are scheduled for kids and adults, including the bouncy house, food tastings, guest speakers and musical entertainment.

Miss Hawaii will also be in attendance and available to take photographs with service members and their families.

SUNSET CEREMONY SCHEDULED MAY 23 AT PWM

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will host a Sunset Ceremony at the Pacific War Memorial on May 23 at 6:30 p.m. Open to the public, the event will feature marching and concert performances by the Marine Forces Pacific Band and remarks from Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee.

Guests are invited to bring blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy the evening ceremony. Parking will be available; however, a shuttle service will be run from the Enlisted Club to the PWM. Call 257-8840 for more.

CREDO RETREATS AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY, DOD

The Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operations, or CREDO, is offering both marriage enrichment retreats and personal growth retreats to service members aboard MCB Hawaii who may be returning from deployments such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and service members who are desiring to improve their relationships with others, feel good about themselves, grow personally and spiritually, and live a more harmonious life.

The next CREDO marriage enrichment retreat is slated for July 11 - 13; the next personal growth retreat is July 24 - 27.

Also, Marine Corps Community Services will be providing courses for returning, formerly deployed service members. Return and reunion briefs are scheduled for May 16 at 6 p.m., May 22 at 12:30 p.m., May 29 at 6 p.m., and June 5 at 12:30 p.m. All return and reunion briefs will be held at the Religious Education Center, Bldg. 1090. For more details, call 257-0662.

Hawaii MARINE

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Survey asks your perception

U. S. Pacific Command
Press Release

CAMP H. M. SMITH — A customer satisfaction survey will be mailed this month to military families of the approximately 15,000 children in Hawaii public schools. The results of this survey will be compared to the results of the survey initiated last year, as a quality of life issue.

The International Center for Leadership Development has again been contracted to conduct the survey in the months of May and June. Surveys will go to parents in the military who have school-age children in Hawaii schools, as well as to students in grades 5 through 12.

All parents and students can access



and fill in the survey on the Internet at www.hawaii-survey.com, until June 13.

The main objective of the survey is to get "ground truth," because the perception of Hawaii schools by military families has often been based on word-of-mouth and hearsay.

Information from the 2002 survey has already been used to help the U.S. Pacific Command and the Hawaii Department of Education to create and implement a strategic plan for the improvement of schools, especially those with high enrollments of students who are military family members.

The mailed survey will be accompanied by a letter from Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, commander of USPACOM, urging everyone to complete the survey so that the most accurate data possible can be analyzed.

For more details, contact Col. David Tom at USPACOM J11 at 477-1376, or Dr Allen Awaya at 477-2543 can be contacted for more information.

JVEF approves funding

The Jont Venture Education Forum's Textbook and Technology committees approved \$28,000 for Kainalu Elementary School, \$89,195 for Kalaheo High School, \$88,700 for Mokapu Elementary School and \$67,112 for Pearl City Elementary School — all schools that are partnered with MCB Hawaii units. The units assisted these schools with putting together their requests for these additional funds.



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Any court room or judicial proceeding, whether under military jurisdiction or civilian authorities, can appear cold or intimidating. However, armed with knowledge of rights and responsibilities, individuals get started on the right foot.

Navy Discharge Review Board examines requests, case by case

(Editor's Note: This article, Part I in a series of two, educates Marines and Sailors about administrative separations. The information provided is merely a brief synopsis of the process and rights available. Service members should consult an attorney for complete details. See Part II in next week's Hawaii Marine, which will discuss reasons applicants have used when seeking an upgraded discharge.)

Richard Kirby
Protocol Officer, MCB Hawaii

Have you ever heard your "buddy" say "An other than honorable discharge is no big deal. It can be upgraded automatically in six months anyhow"? In reality, nothing could be further from the truth, as the Navy Discharge Review Board reviews each request on a case-by-case basis.

My bet is that your buddy is probably undergoing administrative separation processing, and is relying on this misinformation to feel better about what is occurring.

Anyone can apply to the Navy Discharge Review Board. However, the NDRB will not consider applica-

tions for those individuals whose discharge was awarded by a general courts-martial nor those whose discharges are more than 15 years old.

Additionally, for a discharge upgrade, or for a change in the discharge reason, the individual must convince the board that his or her discharge reason or characterization was "inequitable" or "improper."

Inequitable means the reason or characterization of the discharge is not consistent with the policies and traditions of the service. Improper means that the reason or characterization of the discharge is in error (i.e., is false or violates a regulation or a law).

When a Marine or Sailor is being processed for administrative separation, the individual is provided (and required to sign) a document that explains the purpose and scope of the NDRB. The document states that "In connection with review of executed discharges by the NDRB, there is no law or regulation which provides that

an unfavorable discharge may be changed to a more favorable discharge solely because of the expiration of a period of time after discharge during which the respondent's behavior has been exemplary.

"To permit relief, an error or injustice must be found to have existed during the period of the enlistment in question and the respondent's good conduct after discharge, in and of itself, is not sufficient to warrant changing an unfavorable discharge," states the document.

Information on the NDRB is readily available at various Internet Web sites such as boards.law.af.mil.

I reviewed 299 cases processed by the NDRB in 2002, and I found that in only 11 cases did the NDRB change the characterization of service. That equates to less than 4 percent of the cases reviewed.

Of the 11 cases that did receive a characterization upgrade, in the majority, it was clear that errors occurred in the administrative processing and/or interpretation of the regulations.



RIECK

VP-9 changes leadership

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Commander Daniel G. Rieck will assume command of Patrol Squadron Nine, home based at MCB Hawaii, today. He will replace Cmdr. Bradley A. Carpenter, who will take over as training officer at Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force U.S. Pacific Fleet. Rieck previously served as executive officer of VP-9.

CARPENTER

Darkness no match for India 3/3

Lance Cpl.
Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

When 2nd Lt. Dan Ryan led third Platoon, India Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, into the dense jungles of Vietnam during the hours of darkness, and bravely fought against the Viet Cong Army, he earned the company of elite warriors the title "Night Fighters."

This is still a proud tradition within the company today as it trains to fight the war on terrorism.

Marines with India 3/3, began reverse cycle training May 6 to learn to effectively engage the enemy with limited visibility. During this training, the devil dogs stayed awake at night, and slept during the day, while conducting training missions at the Boondocker and Landing Strip Eagle aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

"This training is designed to build these Marines' proficiency in fighting at night, while learning the correct way to use night vision goggles and aiming lights on their weapons," said 1st Lt. George Whitney, executive officer for India Co., 3/3. "This is important because Marines must learn to use the superior technology we possess to fight our enemies at night and negate the disadvantages, so we can use them against them."

During the training, the Marines fought fatigue and darkness while practicing immediate action drills such as clearing trench lines, attacking an enemy bunker and breaching an enemy obstacle.

When breaching an enemy obstacle at night, Marines must effectively create an opening in the obstacle such as barbed wire to break the enemy's perimeter with only the use of NVGs.

"This week's training is to give us a strong foundation for unit and individual skills while operating at night," said Whitney. "It is always more realistic, than not, that a combat situation will arise at night and moreso unexpectedly."

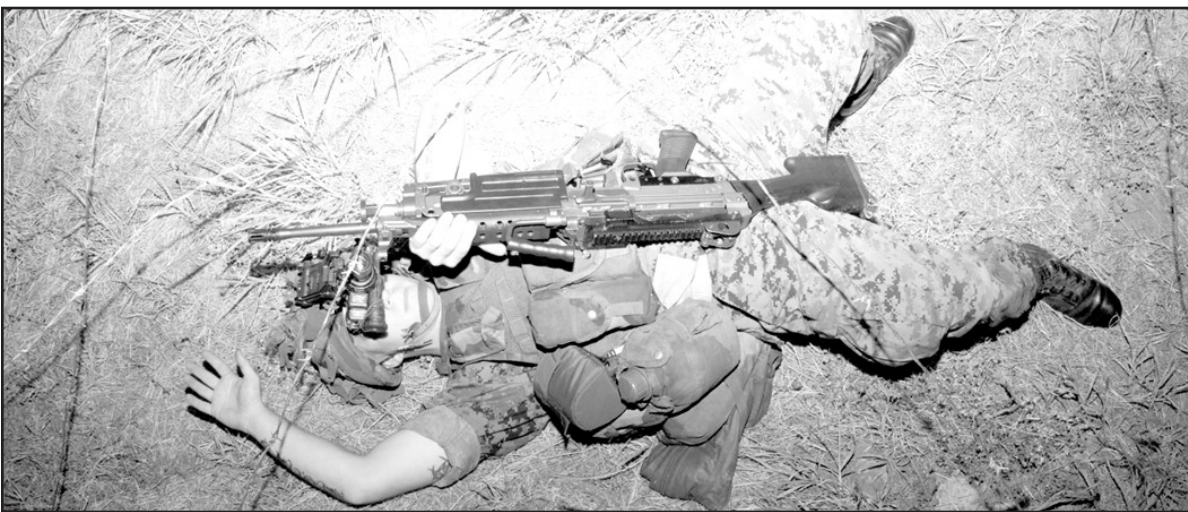
"The first few moments of the firefight are crucial in determining whether or not we will be successful in destroying the enemy," he explained.

Not only are the Marines acquainting themselves with immediate action drills, they are preparing themselves for an upcoming deployment to the Pohakuloa Training Area aboard the "Big Island" of Hawaii. The training will teach them how to safely conduct live-fire exercises at night and to properly execute fire-team and squad level at-



ABOVE — Three Marines from India, 3/3, move through an open field with night vision goggles.

RIGHT — Private First Class Jeremy Harper, a sawgunner with India, 3/3, attempts to negotiate an obstacle course with night vision goggles.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Hawaii Joint Police Association honors K-Bay Marine

Cpl. **Jessica M. Mills**
Editor

HONOLULU — Women in law enforcement are few and far between, so many times they may have to hurdle obstacles to shine. To recognize them, The Hawaii Joint Police Association honored female law enforcement officers with its 5th Annual Salute To Women in Security and Law Enforcement Ceremony May 2 at the Honolulu Country Club.

One of the women who was recognized that day was Sgt. Melinda Wruble, watch commander, Camp H.M. Smith District of Military Police Co., MCB Hawaii. There were 22 other women chosen as honorees, including Lt. Col. Sabrina Sanfillipo-Webb, commanding



WRUBLE

officer, Schofield Barracks' Military Police Bn.

Prior to the ceremony, honorees were treated to a brunch in the Banquet Hall to celebrate their awards.

Wruble's command submitted her name for the award, for her outstanding service as watch commander and as a Marine noncommissioned officer.

Wruble has been a military police offi-

cer in the Marine Corps for 6 years, although she has only been stationed at Camp Smith for two and a half.

As watch commander, she is responsible for posting and relieving every MP on post, inspecting each post and MP, and supervising the watch.

"Knowing that I work with other females and sergeants, my seniors still chose me over them. I really appreciated that pat on the back," she said.

Wruble came into the Corps as a security guard her first enlistment. She was not happy with the billet, but chose to stay for another enlistment to see what other options were out there.

The decision paid off. When she was stationed at MCB Hawaii, Camp Smith, she was posted as watch commander

and succeeded with flying colors.

Wruble was most recently chosen to attend the Military Police Investigators School, which began on Monday, and training in her new military occupational specialty.

Not only does Wruble work hard for the Marine Corps, she also volunteers for the Hawaii Drug Education for Youth, or DEFY, program. She works with kids outside of the school environment and helps them find alternatives to doing drugs.

"I've been doing this for two years off and on. But, since my schedule is so hectic, I can only do it for short periods of time," said Wruble. "Whenever I have time, I squeeze it in, mainly on my off days."

Word on the Street

How does the new SMART clinic aid the readiness of troops?



"Instead of regular clinics trying to deal with sports-related injuries, the SMART clinic specializes in them."

Cpl. R. Ramnarine
Helicopter mechanic
HMH-362



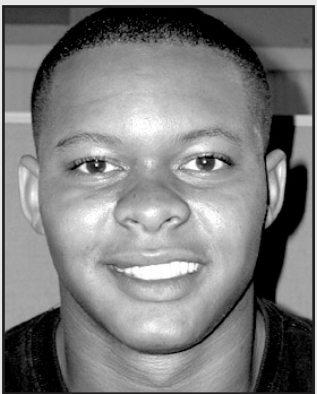
"I think it decreases the days spent on light duty, while preventing long-term injuries and chronic pain."

Navy Lt. Dawn Bowman
SMART Clinic
Physician Assistant



"It keeps the Marines ready for training and gives them good, friendly care."

Pfc. Kevin Orr
Rifleman Lima Co.,
3/3



"It takes care of the Marines with minor aches and pains before they develop into something worse."

Sgt. Shelvin Jackson
Food Service Specialist
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii



"It helps Marines recover more quickly from an injury utilizing the proper healing procedures."

Staff Sgt. Patrick Riley
SNCOIC, Material
Returns, CSSG-3

He'eia Elementary shows its appreciation for the Navy

Lt. j.g. Ian Cunningham
Patrol Squadron Four

He'eia Elementary School declared Thursday, April 24, as Navy Appreciation Day, specifically for the Sailors of Patrol Squadron Four based at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

The school took time out from its normal day to thank the "Skinny Dragons" who have volunteered hundreds of hours tutoring and instructing students as part of the military's "Partnership with Schools" program.

He'eia Elementary also used the occasion to dedicate its new physical fitness center, which will also be used during the Partnership Program when VP-4 personnel participate in physical education classes. The dedication marked the completion of a three-year effort by the school's Parent Teacher Student Association, which has been instrumental in improving the education and the well-being of the students.

Hawaii State Representative Ken Ito, was on hand at the ceremony to show his support for local education and conduct the official ribbon cutting and gift presentation.

He'eia staff and students gave the Skinny Dragons of VP-4 a big "thank you," complete with the presentation of leis decorated cards, and the singing of traditional songs.

Patrol Squadron Four commanding officer, Cmdr. Robert Racoosin, also presented the school with a framed collage of pictures from Partnership with Schools activities.

The program has brought great benefits for participants, by improving the variety of education fair students as well as creating friendships through athletic interaction.

The ceremony offered a great opportunity to reflect on the qualities of the relationship and allow the Navy personnel to see just how much the children appreciation them.

"We are honoring the men and women of Patrol Squadron Four for all of their volunteer efforts," said Principal Sheri Sunabe. They have served as classroom tutors and intramural sports leaders. Over the past few months, we have come to appreciate the friendship and caring of our Skinny Dragons."

Patrol Squadron Four will soon bid farewell, as the unit is preparing for its six-month deployment to Japan, departing early this summer. The partnership will continue however, He'eia students can look forward to interesting stories of far away places, when squadron members communicate through letters and photos.

Upon returning, the Skinny Dragons will have plenty of adventures to share and look forward to, continuing the partnership with education.



Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Estep.

He'eia Elementary students present Patrol Squadron Four's, commanding officer, Cmdr. Robert Racoosin, a thank you card in recognition of the VP-4's work.



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

LINKS changes hands

Shawna Wentlandt (left), took command of the Lifestyles Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills Program, May 6, during a change of command ceremony held at the Officers' Club aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Wentlandt's term will last until April 30, 2004. Her mission will be to run the day-to-day operations of the pro-

gram, including managing the volunteers, and speaking at pre-deployment briefs. Wentlandt replaced Ginger Phillips, who was in charge of the program from May 1, 2002, until May 1, 2003. Phillips received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii.

FUELS, From A-1

conducting business for more than two years without an accident. Base Fuels was also commended as the safest non-tactical Fuels Facility in the Marine Corps.

"It's all about safety. We have a lot of responsibility resting in our hands over here," explained Campbell, emphasizing that Base Fuels will continue its strict safety measures to help ensure operations remain accident free.

AWARDS, From A-1

made such outstanding contributions to the country we live in," said guest speaker Ambas-sador John C. Holzman, foreign policy advisor to the commander, U.S. Pacific Command.

Five received recognition.

Lynn Doctor, a diary chief at MCB Hawaii, was honored in the award category of Federal Employee of the Year for Technical, Administrative and Professional achievements. Among her accomplishments, Doctor scored a 99.4 percent rating during the Marine Corps Administrative Analysis inspection

Mary Sorenson, lead technician at the Temporary Lodging Allowance Office, MCB Hawaii, was honored in the Federal Employee of the Year for Clerical and Assistant category. Sorenson's contributions to the TLA resulted in significant savings in financial and employee resources to the federal government.

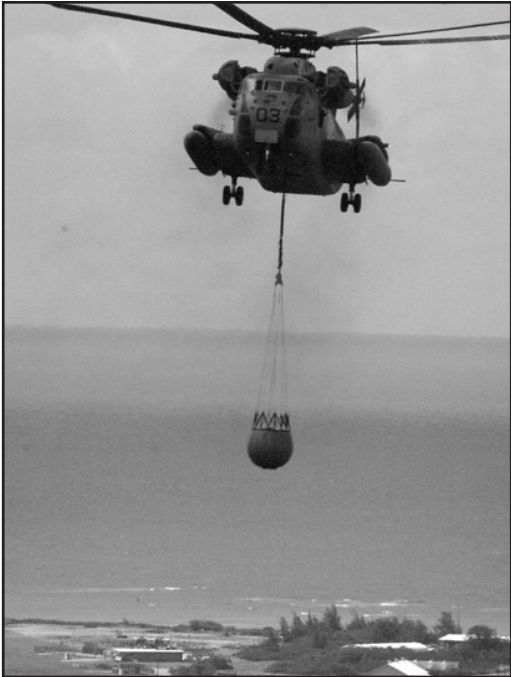
Richard Narvaez, a communications specialist at MCB Hawaii, was honored in the Federal Manager/Supervisor of the Year category. He saved the U.S. government more than \$200,000 in telephone expenses by single-handedly conducting surveys to identify and deactivate unused telephone circuits all across base of which the government was still paying for.

Two outstanding enlisted Marines were honored as Enlisted Service Member of the Year. Sergeant Telly Renfroe, a contracting specialist at Marine Forces Pacific, was recognized as an exceptional performer in all aspects of his profession. Master Sgt. Jerry Webb, the Marine Corps Community Services chief at Camp H. M. Smith, was recognized for his sustained, superior performance.

Major John Claucherty, deputy chief of staff for MCB Hawaii, was applauded for numerous initiatives that made MCB Hawaii the base of choice for the 21st century.

In the final category, Camp Smith's Facilities Division was honored as having provided substantially far-reaching impact with the "Camp Improvement Reuse Renovation Plan," at the U.S. Pacific Command headquarters building and in related projects and collaborative work, in the Federal Organization of Excellence category.

FIRE: Federal, city firefighters respond to raging H-3 blaze



Sgt. Jereme Edwards

From A-1

tunity to show the diversity of our Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Department. "All of the fire services on the island of Oahu have a common bond: to assist where we are needed. We, as a collective group of fire departments, have numerous assets to bring to any emergency call. This particular situation showed that Honolulu, federal and the Aircraft Rescue fire departments could all assist in any situation and overcome the emergency."

Left — A CH-53D Sea Stallion, with HMH 362, moves in with a 500-gallon bucket of water from Kaneohe Bay to help extinguish Sunday's brush fire.

Sound Attention



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Sergeant Matthew R. Solem, Tower NCO at Puuloa Range, is awarded the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his outstanding performance of duties during the Pacific Division Matches by Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, during at a flagpole ceremony May 9.